



## Resources to Support Medicines Information Services

This seminar has been organised by the Pharmacy Information Section of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). It will cover a range of information resources (paper and electronic) and demonstrate how these can be used in medicines information services.

The symposium will be held at the FIP Congress venue in Lisbon, Portugal. Presentations will be in English but there will be scope for discussion of topics in Portuguese during the breaks.

### Objectives

- Guide the selection and use of hardcopy texts and electronic information resources.
- Demonstrate the practical use of these resources in medicines information.
- Share experiences with pharmacists providing medicines information services in a range of countries and practice environments.

### Faculty

- **Christie Robinson**, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, University of California, San Francisco, USA (Co-ordinator)
- **Graeme Vernon**, Austin Health Drug Information, Australia (Co-ordinator)
- **Sandra Lino**, Medicines Information Service, National Association of Pharmacists, Lisbon, Portugal
- **Kevin G Moores**, Division of Drug Information Service, College of Pharmacy, The University of Iowa, USA
- **Joana Pinto**, Medicines Information Service, National Association of Pharmacies, Lisbon, Portugal
- **Ana Cristina Ribeiro Rama**, Medicines Information, Pharmacy Department, Coimbra University Hospitals, Coimbra University, Portugal

### Program

#### 9–9:15. Welcome, introductions (Christie)

- Alex Dodoo, President, Pharmacy Information Section
- Aims, background of participants

#### 9:15–9:30. Overview of information resources (Graeme)

- Need for independent medicines information services
- Global access to scientific and medical literature
- Product information – characteristics and limitations

#### 9:30–10.00 Creating the evidence base (Ana)

- Recording clinical experience (case reports, case series)
- Clinical trials – quality requirements in controlled clinical trials
- Levels of evidence to support clinical practice

#### 10–10.30 Critical analysis — Session 1 (Kevin)

- Essential elements of good clinical research
- Group exercise – consider the aims and methods of two clinical trials (copies provided to each participant via email before the seminar)

*Break (30 minutes) — includes 10 min. summary for Portuguese speaking participants (Ana/Sandra)*

#### 11–11:30. Reviews (Graeme)

- Narrative reviews, systematic reviews
- Meta-analyses
- Clinical guidelines from professional groups and government agencies

**11:30–12:00. Evidence-based medicine** (Sandra/Joana)

- Identifying questions of clinical importance
- Comprehensive searches for data
- Applying quality criteria to studies
- Analysis of data
- Interpreting the results
- Application to health practice

**12:00–12:30. Clinical decision support** (Christie)

- Paper and electronic resources to support clinical practice (e.g. Micromedex, Lexi-Comp, eFacts, MedicinesComplete, UptoDate)
- Summary texts, formularies, guidelines
- Specialist texts: interactions, renal and liver impairment, safety in pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Integrating information with patient data —decision support for prescribing and dispensing

*Break (60 minutes) — includes 20 min. summary and discussion for Portuguese speaking participants (Carlos)*

**1:30–2:00. Bibliographic databases** (Graeme)

- Overview of Medline/PubMed, Embase
- Indexing, searching
- Standard search patterns

**2:00–2:30. Web-based resources for health professionals** (Ana)

- Assessing the quality of open-access sites
- Specialist sites, e.g. interactions, HIV, pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Email discussion groups
- Portable devices

**2:30–3:00 Critical analysis — Session 2** (Kevin)

- Group exercise continued – consider the results and interpretation of the two trials previously discussed

*Break (30 minutes) — includes 10 min. summary and discussion for Portuguese speaking participants (Carlos)*

**3:30–4:00. Web-based resources for consumers** (Christie)

- Credible sources of health information for consumers
- Effects of advertising
- Patient support groups

**4:00–4:30. New medicines assessment** (Graeme)

- Identifying new medicines during the approval process
- Assessment of efficacy and clinical applications
- Advertising, indirect promotion and disease mongering.
- Comparative analysis to assist clinicians and funding authorities

**4:30–5:00. Applying information resources in practice** (Sandra)

- Search patterns for common types of enquiries
- Practical examples of using information resources in daily practice
- Collaboration with other medicines information services

**5:00–5:15. Discussion, awarding of certificates** (Graeme)

## **Registration**

Registration is only available in association with FIP Congress attendance ([www.fip.nl](http://www.fip.nl)).  
Seminar cost: € 125

## **Contacts**

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Christie Robinson ([Christie.Robinson@ucsf.edu](mailto:Christie.Robinson@ucsf.edu)).

Program prepared by Graeme Vernon, Executive Committee, Pharmacy Information Section

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